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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that the last defendant in two related cases was sentenced today. United States District Judge Raymond A. Jackson sentenced Dezmend Rashawn Doweary, age 31, of Norfolk, Virginia, to 262 months imprisonment for conspiracy to distribute and possession of heroin between 1999 and February of 2004 in the Chesapeake, Newport News, Norfolk and Virginia Beach areas of Virginia, and elsewhere.

Doweary and seven other co-conspirators were indicted by a federal grand jury on February 9, 2004, in a multi-count indictment charging them with conspiracy to distribute and possession of heroin, numerous additional distribution counts; and using, carrying, and possessing a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. All Doweary's co-conspirators have pled guilty and were sentenced as follows: Larry Kasim Dowery, a/k/a "Dot" was sentenced to 48 months imprisonment; Johnny Alvin Hall, a/k/a "J.B." was sentenced to 66 months of imprisonment; Ricky Samuel Johnson, a /k/a "Rap" was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment; Jason Landis Linder, a/k/a "Black" was sentenced to 262 months imprisonment; Nasir Mubin, a/k/a "Naz" and a/k/a "Stephen Michael" was sentenced to 166 months imprisonment; Jeffrey Tarrats, a/k/a "Skip" and a/k/a "Ozzy" was sentenced to 262 months imprisonment; and Melvin Wylie, a/k/a "Pils" was sentenced to 76 months imprisonment.

Members of this organization provided large sums of U.S. currency to Corey Bell in New York City where he would use it to purchase approximately 80 to 150 grams of "raw" uncut heroin. Bell would return to the South Hampton Roads area with the heroin where he distributed it to other co-conspirators and users in the South Hampton Roads area.

Bell and his co-defendants were prosecuted in *United States v. Bell, et. al.* He was sentenced on May 20, 2004, to 274 months imprisonment; co-defendant Jason Adam Cintron, was sentenced on September 23, 2004, to 70 months imprisonment; and co-defendant Malika Lynch was sentenced on May 20, 2004, to 174 months imprisonment.

Mr. McNulty stated: "Once again we have prevailed in disrupting a large drug-trafficking organization. These individuals will be off the streets of our communities for a substantial period of time. Our citizens can rest assured that we will continue our fight to keep them safe from those who peddle these illicit drugs."

The indictments were the culmination of an extensive investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Norfolk and Virginia Beach Police Departments. Assistant United States Attorney Darryl Mitchell prosecuted the cases for the United States.